180367

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
INITIAL POLLUTION REPORT

I. HEADING

DATE: July 25, 2003

SUBJECT: POLREP 3 for the ARCO Research Lab Site, Harvey, Cook County, Illinois

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POLREP #: POLREP 3 – ARCO RESEARCH LAB REMOVAL

II. BACKGROUND

Response Authority:	CERCLA (# ILN000508307)
NPL Status:	Non-NPL
Site ID No:	B53D
Start Date:	June 30, 2003
Completion Date:	Pending
Latitude:	41°37'21"N
Longitude:	87°38'01"W

III. SITE INFORMATION

A. Incident Category

Time critical soil removal of uncontrolled hazardous substances, including drums, solid materials, and asbestos.

B. Site Description

1. Site location

The ARCO Research Lab Site is located at 400 East 147th Street in Harvey, Cook County, Illinois. The western boundary of the site parallels the Illinois Central Railroad or Metra Electric commuter rail line, the northern boundary is 147th Street, the eastern boundary of the site is adjacent to Field Elementary

School, and the southern boundary of the site is adjacent to other industrial facilities. The nearest residential areas are approximately 500 feet from the site and the nearest body of water is the Calumet River, approximately 2,400 feet east of the site.

2. Description of threat

Samples were collected of suspected asbestos-containing material from the main building and surrounding buildings during a U.S. EPA site investigation in April 2002. Samples were collected from pipe insulation, ceiling tile paper, floor tile, and duct insulation. Samples indicated the presence of asbestos (25-30%) in these materials, with an estimated 135,000 square feet of ACM. It was observed that 50% of the ACM was damaged, loose, or had fallen to the ground and mixed with other building debris. Several containers, with their contents unknown, were observed throughout the property and in several buildings. Access to the property and building is unrestricted, allowing for future vandalism and potential for fire. A day-care facility and elementary school are directly east of the facility posing a potential direct contact threat to children.

3. Site background

The Site is the former location of the ARCO Chemical Research facility, comprising numerous buildings on 30 acres in Harvey, Illinois. The site was acquired by BP Amoco in the 1980s and later closed around 1990. A developer attempted to lease out the various buildings but only attracted a few tenants. The City of Harvey acquired the property in the mid 1990s due to delinquent taxes. The site includes numerous buildings including research/offices, power plant, and empty above-ground tank farm, and utility tunnels with pipes containing ACM. One company manufactured lignosulfate, an agricultural food additive, and dust suppressant. The company left a significant amount of product and waste at the site.

The site is currently vacant with extensive vandalism and unsecured entrances. Extensive damage is visible to most of the windows, as well as numerous fires in several rooms and hallways. All recyclable materials had been removed from the buildings leaving insulation scattered throughout. There are numerous piles of debris throughout the site, with some containing drums of unknown contents.

1.4 State and local actions to date

The Illinois EPA performed an inspection of the facility to determine if an action was required. The Illinois EPA recommended to the Illinois Attorney General that remedial action was required at the site. The Attorney General referred the site to the U.S EPA.

IV. SITE INFORMATION

A. Situation

1. Response activities to date

- Earth Tech collected all drums, small containers, and cylinders with material and staged them near Building E. All empty drums were crushed and stacked in a pile.

- Earth Tech bulked and staged waste materials into six groups neutral liquids, neutral solids, flammable liquids, acid liquids, caustic liquids, and caustic solids. Waste streams were staged in a garage attached to Building H.

- Earth Tech and Tetra Tech collected disposal samples. The following samples were collected: neutral liquids, neutral solids, flammable liquids, acid liquids, caustic liquids, caustic solids, liquid from a tanker, water from a trench surrounding Building H, white powder and a black solid from under a canopy near Building H, various colored powders inside Building H, and a grey

solid from drums southwest of Building H.

- Began to install a fence along the front and side of Buildings A and L

B. Planned Removal Activities

- Removal activities will include the removal of loose/free asbestos containing materials in Building A and along outdoor open pipe chases, the removal of all containers throughout the site, and removal of product materials associated with Building H

C. Next Steps

- Arrange for disposal of all waste streams.
- Dispose of waste materials at the site.
- Determine removal action for Building A and L.

D. Key Issues

- Site activities will stop for approximately 2-3 weeks while analytical data is being evaluated and disposal contracts are put out for bid. Upon disposal approvals, site activities will resume.
- USEPA will continue to evaluate the options for building A and L, which currently include; 1) securing the building with a fence and board up open doors and windows; 2) remove all debris and loose / damaged ACM; 3) wet demolition of buildings A and L, which requires an emergency order and regulatory variance.

5. COSTS

	Cost to date	Ceiling	% Remaining
ERRS	$107,073	$ 250,000	57%
START	$ NA	$ NA	NA
TOTAL	**$107,073**	**$ 250,000**	**57%**

The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based upon figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

6. DISPOSAL (PENDING)

Neutral Liquids	14 drums
	7000 gallons (bulk)
Acid Liquids	5 drums
Caustic Liquids	4 drums
	600-900 gallons (bulk)
Flamm. Liquids	17 drums
Neutral Solids	11 drums
	26 cu. yd. boxes

Caustic Solids	5 drums